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5/19/80

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS

letter to Argentinian Ambassador concerning Rafael Rey

May 19, 1980

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason ☐

Ambassador Jorge Antonio Aja Espil
Embassy of Argentina
1600 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

As Members of the United States House of Representatives, we wish to express our severe concern over the continued imprisonment of Rafael Rey despite the orders of the federal courts of Argentina that he be freed. In 1977, Mr. Rey was found not guilty of alleged political offenses. Nevertheless, he remains in jail under the national executive authority of your government's state-of-seige laws.

In March, 1979, Mr. Rey's wife and daughter received permission to leave the country. They now live in Israel, and desperately want to be reunited with him. Rafael Rey's applications to emigrate have been twice refused. We believe it is a serious injustice that even though they were both arrested on the same charges, she has been permitted to leave the country while he remains in prison.

Additionally, officials from the United States have been refused permission several times to interview Mr. Rey to determine his eligibility for parole into our country.

We are extremely dismayed over the continued incarceration of Rafael Rey and his forced separation from his family. Accordingly, we respectfully urge that your government (1) permit U.S. representatives to interview Mr. Rey, and (2) grant his request to emigrate to Israel.

We consider this to be an extremely important matter in relations between our countries, and intend to follow closely all further developments.

We request that you fully inform your government of our interest and concern over Rafael Rey, and convey to us your government's interest.

Lot 82D275
Box 3541
(2/17)

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With appreciation for your attention, we are,

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN, M.C.

CHARLES F. DOUGLETTY, M.C.

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ROBERT F. DRINAN, M.C.

BERKLEY BEDELL, M.C.

BOB EDGAR, M.C.

JONATHAN P. BINGHAM, M.C.

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PHILLIP BURTON, M.C.

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SHIRLEY CHISHOLM, M.C.

DAN SLICKMAN, M.C.

JULIAN C. DIXON, M.C.

WILLIAM F. GIBBISON, JR., M.C.

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WILLIAM E. GEAY, III, M.C.